



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS CONVICTED CHILD SEX PREDATOR

Honduran man was convicted of sexually abusing a nine-year-old

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – A man convicted in 2000 for repeatedly sexually abusing a nine-year-old child in New York has been deported to Honduras by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Detention and Removal Operations (DRO).

Mario Fernando Rojas-Villanueva was convicted of first-degree sexual conduct against a child and endangering the welfare of a child on July 31, 2000. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Rojas-Villanueva is a citizen of Honduras who entered the United States in November 1991 as a legal immigrant. He was arrested Feb. 17, 2000, and charged with rape, sexual conduct against a child and endangering the welfare of a child. The offenses took place on several different occasions of a period of several months. The victim in this crime was a child approximately nine years old at the time of the offense.

Rojas-Villanueva was ordered removed by an immigration judge on August 27, 2001, and waived his right to appeal that decision. ICE officers took him into custody on Feb. 28, 2005, after his release from New York State Department of Corrections, and deported him to Honduras on March 17.

"Removing dangerous sexual predators from our communities is a top priority for ICE as part of our effort to restore integrity to the nation's immigration system," said Tom Decker, DRO Field Office Director for Philadelphia. "Mario Fernando Rojas-Villanueva's deplorable record of sexual offenses against an innocent child makes him a prime example of the type of predator we're targeting. Those who commit such offenses against children are on notice – we will find you and we will deport you."

Today's removal is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,100 individuals, and more than 2,100 foreign national predators have been deported. At least 79 child sex predators have been arrested in Pennsylvania since July 23.

Last year was a record setting year for ICE Detention and Removal, deporting more than 160,000 aliens. In Philadelphia, ICE removed 3,520 aliens during the 2004 Fiscal Year, which ended Sep. 30; 2,444 were criminal aliens.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. ICE investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.